



Dannel P. Malloy

GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

April 4, 2011

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I commend to you the Connecticut Department of Transportation's application under the High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program. We have applied for Federal funding for Phase 3 of our program of investments in high speed and intercity train service in the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield (NHHS) rail corridor. This application reflects my commitment, on behalf of Connecticut, to implement the vision of President Obama and the Department and create a true high-speed rail system in the United States – one that improves mobility, creates jobs, and accelerates sustainable economic development across the country.

Connecticut has already received two grants totaling \$160.9 million – matched by the state with \$162 million in state bond proceeds – to upgrade the NHHS rail corridor. This funding has been allocated to Phases 1 and 2 of a three-phase program, and is being used to upgrade the line between New Haven and Hartford.

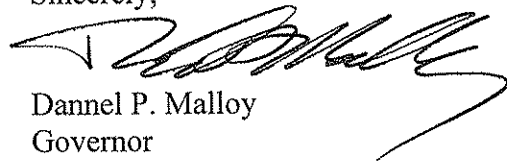
In this application Connecticut seeks \$227 million in Federal funding to complete the NHHS High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail project with improvements between Hartford and Springfield. We commit to spending \$97 million in state matching funds, bringing our total contribution for the NHHS rail project to \$259.3 million – 40 percent of the cost of upgrading the NHHS rail corridor. This level of state funding and in-kind match exceeds that of any other state applying for HSIPR funding.

Completing improvements to the line is vital to Connecticut and our region. Expanded and faster passenger rail service cannot extend north of Hartford to Massachusetts, Vermont, and eventually Montreal without Federal funding to complete the Phase 3 NHHS improvements. Thus, Phase 3 is essential to achieve the transportation objectives of our entire multi-state region. Upon completion, the number of trains able to operate north of Hartford will increase dramatically, speeds will be increased to 110 mph, stations in Connecticut and Massachusetts will be enhanced, and a new bus shuttle will connect the rail line to Connecticut and Western New England's Bradley International Airport. Once fully completed in five years, the NHHS

Rail Project will permit a quadrupling of passenger rail service and create one of the best passenger rail corridors in the nation, serving the needs of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont for decades to come.

Connecticut is fully committed to your national aspiration of an integrated high speed inter-city passenger rail and transportation network. The benefits are manifest: a safe and efficient transportation alternative that seamlessly links our communities and promotes regional economic development and competitiveness. The NHHS rail line is a crucial element of the broader New England High Speed and Intercity Rail Network that will connect every major city in New England with smaller cities and rural areas. I urge your favorable review of our application.

Sincerely,



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

cc: The Honorable Joseph Lieberman
The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
The Honorable John Larson
The Honorable Joe Courtney
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
The Honorable Jim Himes
The Honorable Chris Murphy
The Honorable Joseph Szabo, Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration